

The question is on the engrossment of the amendment and third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is on passage of the bill, as amended.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this will be the last vote of the night, and we will then work on these issues as soon as we can. The sooner we get the stuff from the House, the sooner we can wrap up, and Senator KOHL will be here to begin work on the agricultural bill. So we should have a full load tomorrow.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 248 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Akaka	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Alexander	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Barrasso	Feinstein	Pryor
Baucus	Franken	Reed
Bayh	Gillibrand	Reid
Begich	Graham	Risch
Bennet	Grassley	Roberts
Bennett	Gregg	Rockefeller
Bingaman	Hagan	Sanders
Bond	Harkin	Schumer
Boxer	Hatch	Sessions
Brown	Hutchison	Shaheen
Brownback	Inouye	Shelby
Bunning	Johanns	Shelby
Burr	Johnson	Snowe
Burr	Kaufman	Specter
Cantwell	Kerry	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Kohl	Thune
Casey	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Lautenberg	Udall (NM)
Collins	Leahy	Vitter
Conrad	Levin	Voinovich
Corker	Lincoln	Warner
Cornyn	Lugar	Webb
Crapo	McConnell	Whitehouse
Dodd	Merkley	Wicker
Dorgan	Murkowski	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	

NAYS—9

Chambliss	Ensign	Kyl
Coburn	Inhofe	McCain
DeMint	Isakson	McCaskill

NOT VOTING—6

Byrd	Lieberman	Menendez
Kennedy	Martinez	Mikulski

The bill (H.R. 3183), as amended, was passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendment and requests a conference with the House, and the Chair is authorized to appoint the following conferees.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BYRD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BENNETT of Utah, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BOND, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. VOINOVICH conferees on the part of the Senate.

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I was unable to participate in the rollcall vote on final passage of H.R. 3183, as amended, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted yea in support of the bill.

I would like to commend the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator DORGAN, and the ranking member, Senator BENNETT, for their bipartisan work on this important bill that will fund energy and conservation programs that are critical for my State of Connecticut and the rest of the country. •

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise this evening before we adjourn to share some letters I have received from constituents of mine in Ohio. I represent the Buckeye State in this body.

I have received probably hundreds of letters similar to the ones I am going to read, and thousands of calls and e-mails and faxes and visits from people asking that we move forward on health insurance legislation, that we do not let special interest groups slow us down, that we do not let people who want to see this fail get in the way of its passage.

I wanted to share some of these letters, because in this body, we talk about exclusivity periods, we talk about the public option, we talk about the exchange, the gateway, employer mandates, all of those things that matter to us. They are public policy; they are important. But we do not talk enough about individuals about people in Juneau or Fairbanks, in the Presiding Officer's State, about what people in Galion, in Mansfield and Bucyrus and Crestline, and Findlay and Zanesville in my State think.

I want to share a handful of these letters I received in the last few days from people in my State.

I will start with Brenton from Franklin County. That is the Columbus area in Central Ohio:

My health care story is similar to that of many young people across the country. I am 26, healthy, college-educated. I have a full-time job. But even with these advantages I'm unable to afford health care coverage without significant help from my parents.

After graduating college 3 years ago, I took a part time job and went without

health coverage for about a year. Unfortunately, I came down with a case of strep throat and put off going to a doctor for several weeks until it became severe.

Obviously, he did not have insurance. It was expensive.

When I finally sought medical attention, my case of strep proved to be drug resistant and I had to pay for several hundred dollars in different medications. I lost my job due to medical absence before I returned to good health.

After this scare, I found a full-time job with health coverage, but I still need help from my parents to cover the high premiums. I realize I am fortunate to be healthy and insured when compared to many Americans.

But it's a shame that in a country as great as ours that there could be any question as to whether a young able-bodied man, such as myself, should feel secure in his future if presented with even a minor illness.

Think about that. This is a young man who, because he did not have insurance, even though he worked full time, was playing by the rules, could not get insurance. He gets sick. He puts off going to the doctor. It ends up costing him out of pocket in the health care system a whole lot more money. He lost his job because he missed work.

If we had our health care bill in place, the legislation that passed out of the HELP Committee, if we had that bill in place, a bill that protects what works in the system and fixes what is wrong, then Brenton would still hold his job and would be in a much better position.

Richard from Youngstown in northeast Ohio is near the Pennsylvania border. Youngstown, I might add, was voted in Entrepreneur Magazine recently as one of the 10 best places in America to start a business.

Richard writes:

I ascribe my good health to regular preventive care efforts to stay healthy: no smoking, regular exercise, weight control. But five years ago, I had surgery for early stage prostate cancer.

Fortunately, I am still cancer free. The surgery itself was a miracle of modern medicine . . . and I've enjoyed similar high standards of care from my doctors' vigilance.

Three years ago, at the age of 61, I hiked through the Appalachian Trail as well as the Pacific Crest Trail. More recently I passed my recent physical with flying colors.

Imagine my consternation when my insurance company told me the reason my premium had been raised 30 percent was because I was "in such poor health"!

The insurance company wrote that my premiums increased because I had moved up into a different age bracket and because of my cancer history. They said for me to wait until the 5 year anniversary of my cancer to shop around for a different plan.

In the past, I wouldn't hesitate to visit my doctor or a specialist to manage my care.

Now, I'm among the under-insured. As a retiree whose retirement savings has been devastated, I have to face living on a reduced income.

Now, I might put off that doctor visit.

That's why I'm so strongly in favor of a public alternative to the existing for-profit insurance companies in the health care reform legislation currently making its way through Congress.

Under our legislation, there would be no longer the discrimination of pre-existing condition, of cutting off people